

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed March 24, 2003. Herein, claims 1-21, 28-32, 36-38 and 42-47 are cancelled without prejudice. Preambles associated with claims 21, 25, 33, 39 and 48 have been amended to clarify the invention. Also, claims 51 and 52 have been added. Reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

I. DRAWINGS

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to by the Draftsperson as noted in the form PTO-948. Applicants respectfully request postponement in submitting the formal drawings until the pending claims have been allowed.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 21-27 and 33-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,310,873 issued to Rainis, et al. (Rainis). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection in its entirety.

Herein, the Office Action states that Rainis describes client services (10) and a directory services (14) which allegedly constitute an endpoint and terminal gateway, respectively. Applicants respectfully disagree. As set forth on column 4, lines 34-36 of Rainis, client services (10) include "terminal devices and client software" that are responsible for interaction with users placing calls. As shown in Figure 1, the client services (10) is a computer with modem capability, which is not an endpoint as defined in claims 21, 33 and 39. In these claims, the endpoint is defined as either (i) an Internet Protocol (IP) telephone set or (ii) a telephone coupled to a terminal gateway. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the allowability of claims 21, 33 and 39 based on the addition of this limitation.

In addition, the Office Action states that Rainis “does not expressly disclose registering a second line of the endpoint with a second communications server and establishing a second telephone call on the second line of the endpoint to a third endpoint via the second communications server.” *See Page 3 of the Office Action.* However, it is alleged that Rainis mentions another embodiment of the invention which provides an Internet telephone system with multi-party calling. *See column 17, lines 23-36 of Rainis.* Applicants respectfully disagree because Rainis describes that “the invention may serve as a link to a wide range of additional telecommunication services,” but such wording does not teach or even suggest that the inventive system of Rainis would provide such additional telecommunication services itself. (Emphasis added).

Hence, claims 21, 33 and 39 as well as those claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claims 25 and 48, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the directory services (14) do not constitute a terminal gateway as claimed. As set forth on column 4, lines 46-48 of Rainis, directory services (14) “identify appropriate telephony servers for completing call requests from users and store information regarding the call.” These services differ from the terminal gateway, as now set forth in claims 25 and 48, which is adapted to convert Internet Protocol (IP) media packets from one or more communications servers into analog signals and to forward the analog signals to one or more endpoint(s) via dedicated communication link(s) between the terminal gateway and the endpoint(s). The directory server (12) of Rainis does not teach or even suggest such functionality or system architecture. Hence, claims 25 and 48 as well as those claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

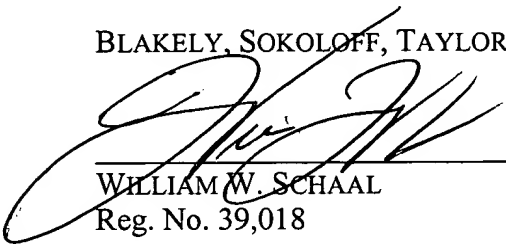
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: July 24, 2003

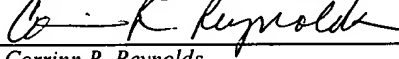


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Corinn R. Reynolds

7/24/03
Date